



City of Beverly, Massachusetts

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RE: BEVERLY RECEIVES \$90,000 Jail Arrest Diversion Program Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health

BEVERLY – The City of Beverly was recently awarded a Jail Arrest Diversion Program Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health. The \$90,000 grant was awarded to hire a full time co-responder clinician who will support police departments on calls for individuals with mental health and/or substance use issues. This is a collaborative partnership grant that will support police departments in Beverly, Ipswich, Gloucester, Essex, Manchester and Rockport.

The goal of this program is to divert persons from arrest and to promote treatment interventions as an alternative to further justice system involvement. Longstanding affiliations with regional providers such as Lahey Health Behavioral Services and Eliot Community Human Services create a strong capacity to leverage health provider and treatment services. The co-responder clinician is situated within the Beverly and Gloucester Police Departments with as needed response to all six North Shore area communities. The six partnering communities represent a geographic area of 158 square miles and comprise a shared population of approximately 100,000 people.

Beverly Mayor Michael Cahill commented “We thank the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health for this generous collaborative grant to support law enforcement who respond to situations involving individuals with mental health and/or substance use issues. It’s important to divert individuals with behavioral health issues away from the criminal justice system and toward appropriate treatment and recovery services”. This grant builds off of current efforts by Mayor Cahill, partner communities and law enforcement to fight addiction and the current opioid epidemic with effective crisis response interventions.

Beverly Police Chief John LeLacheur further stated “We believe the collaborative Jail Arrest Diversion Program will greatly benefit the Beverly, Ipswich, Gloucester, Essex, Manchester and Rockport Police Departments by having a co-responder clinician to effectively assist officers with crisis interventions involving individuals who can be diverted from arrest and toward future behavioral health supports”.

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